

9 authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback  
10 devices.

1 2. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 storing the first license in second digital audio content; and  
3 authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first set of  
4 playback devices.

1 3. (Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising:  
2 creating a second license having a second cardinality, the license created by the  
3 license management device;  
4 storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second  
5 set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality,  
6 and further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second  
7 set;  
8 storing the second license in second digital audio content;  
9 authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of  
10 playback devices.

1 7. (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of  
2 playback devices comprises at least one [is a] hardware playback device.

1           8.       (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the first set of  
2    playback devices comprises at least one [is a] software player.

Please cancel claim 9 without prejudice.

1           10.      (Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the first digital audio content  
2    further comprises [is audio/visual] video digital programming.

1           11.      (Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon sequences  
2    of instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause [the] one or more  
3    electronic systems [processors] to:

4           create a first license with a license management device, the first license having a  
5    first cardinality;

6           store the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a command  
7    from the license management device, wherein the first set of playback devices is  
8    determined based, at least in part, on the first cardinality;

9           store the first license in first digital audio content; and

10          authorize playback of the first digital audio content with the first set of playback  
11    devices.

1           12.     (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising  
2     sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic systems  
3     [processors] to:  
4           store the first license in second digital audio content; and  
5           authorize playback of the second digital audio content with the first set of  
6     playback devices.

1           13.     (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 further comprising  
2     sequences of instructions that when executed cause the one or more electronic systems  
3     [processors] to:  
4           create a second license in the license management device, the second license  
5     having a second cardinality;  
6           store the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein the second  
7     set of playback devices is determined based, at least in part, on the second cardinality,  
8     and further wherein at least one playback device belongs to the first set and to the second  
9     set;  
10          store the second license in second digital audio content;  
11          authorize playback of the second digital audio content with the second set of  
12     playback devices.

1           17.     (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least  
2 one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one [is a] hardware playback  
3 device.

1           18.     (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein at least  
2 one of the first set of playback devices comprises at least one [is a] software player.

Please cancel claim 19 without prejudice.

1           20.     (Amended) The machine-readable medium of claim 11 wherein the first  
2 digital audio content further comprises [is audio/visual] digital video programming.

1           21.     (Amended) An apparatus for digital license management, the apparatus  
2 comprising:  
3           means for creating a first license in a license management device, the first license  
4 having a first cardinality;  
5           means for storing the first license in a first set of playback devices in response to a  
6 command from the license management device;  
7           means for storing the first license in first digital audio content; and  
8           means for authorizing playback of the first digital audio content with the first set  
9 of playback devices.

1           22.     (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:  
2           means for storing the first license in second digital audio content; and  
3           means for authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the first  
4   set of playback devices.

1           23.     (Amended) The apparatus of claim 21 further comprising:  
2           means for creating a second license in the license management device;  
3           means for storing the second license in a second set of playback devices, wherein  
4   at least one playback device from the second set of playback devices is included in the  
5   first set of playback devices;  
6           means for storing the second license in second digital audio content; and  
7           means for authorizing playback of the second digital audio content with the  
8   second set of playback devices.

Please add the following new claims:

1           24.     (New) A digital data signal embodied in a data communications medium  
2   shared among a plurality of network devices to provide digital audio programming, the  
3   digital data signal comprising license having a first cardinality, the license having been  
4   created by a license management device, the digital data signal further comprising a first  
5   digital audio content that is at least a subset of the digital audio programming, wherein a  
6   set of playback devices receive the digital data signal and authorize playback of the first